



**Councilmember Bob Ferguson, District 1**  
**Councilmember Julia Patterson, District 5**

## **King County Independent Law Enforcement Oversight**

King County must provide thorough, independent, and fair investigations of alleged police misconduct. The King County Council must take immediate action to improve the operations and transparency of the citizen complaint process in place for the King County Sheriff's Office. King County shall create a permanent and independent oversight structure for the Sheriff's Office and provide it with sufficient resources to ensure that allegations of police misconduct are investigated thoroughly and fairly.

### **Independent Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (LEO)**

#### **Structure**

The Independent Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (LEO) will be a division of the King County Office of Citizen's Complaints (Ombudsman's Office) and report to the King County Council. LEO will consist of three civilians with background in employment law, civil rights, and law enforcement.

#### **Powers and Duties**

**LEO will receive and track all citizen complaints** involving the King County Sheriff's Office and forward the complaints to the Sheriff's Internal Investigations Unit (IIU) for investigation. In addition, LEO will receive whistle blower notifications made by employees in the King County Sheriff's Office.

**LEO will monitor all complaints** and ongoing internal investigations involving the King County Sheriff's Office, and, where appropriate, participate in these investigations. For example, LEO may participate in investigations performed by the IIU by interviewing witnesses (including employees) and reviewing all evidence and documents associated with the case in real time.

**LEO will review all investigative findings** and then make a recommendation to the King County Sheriff as to whether the investigation was fair, the decision was reached without bias or prejudice, and disciplinary action was appropriate under Sheriff's Office protocol. **LEO will also issue its own independent findings and disciplinary recommendations to the Sheriff.**

**LEO has the authority to issue recommendations for policy changes and reform** directly to the King County Sheriff in an effort to improve internal investigations, policies, and procedures.

LEO shall issue semi-annual statistical reports on the activities of the Internal Investigations Unit and the LEO, including the number and type of complaints and their disposition, and the number and type of cases in which the decision of the Sheriff regarding disposition or discipline differed from the recommendation of the LEO.

### **Independent Auditor of Law Enforcement (ALE)**

#### **Structure**

The Independent Auditor of Law Enforcement (ALE) will be associated with the King County Auditor's Office and report directly to the King County Council.

#### **Powers and Duties**

The ALE will focus on **long-term policy improvements** regarding law enforcement in King County. The ALE shall periodically review the procedures and resources of the King County Sheriff's Internal Investigation Unit and issue recommendations for reforms where appropriate. The ALE will issue reports on police misconduct status, incident, and result trends illustrated through complaints and internal investigations.